

The Budget

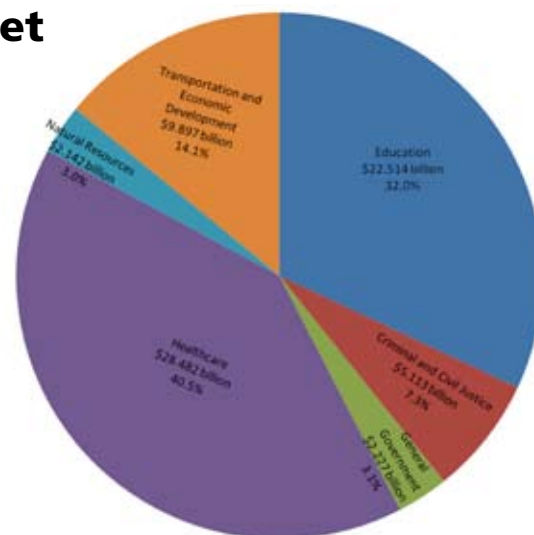
The 2010 Legislative Session began with Florida facing a \$3.2 billion shortfall. However, the Florida Constitution requires a balanced budget. To meet this challenge, legislators examined the budget line-by-line to prioritize spending on Florida's critical needs.

I believe the Legislature met its constitutional obligation to pass a responsibly balanced budget and did so without raising taxes. We did this in the same manner that Florida's families and small businesses handle their finances – by deciding not to spend more than what we have and making tough decisions that are in our state's long-term best interest. This meant focusing on the core missions of government – protecting public safety, education, and providing critical healthcare for our most vulnerable citizens.

The Legislature also included adequate reserves funds which serve as short-term savings to help the state manage its budget during times when revenues are down. Because of our fiscal discipline, Florida has consistently earned a AAA bond rating, the only large state in the nation to earn this top rank. This top tier rating saves the state millions of dollars each year.

Even in these tight financial times, the Legislature increased per-student funding in our schools, promoted safer communities by ensuring that criminals remain in prison to serve their full sentences and increased our overall healthcare funding. We have worked hard to make responsible decisions that should help place Florida in the best position possible for growth and prosperity once the economy recovers.

Florida Budget 2010-2011



Policy Areas	Appropriations*
Health Care	\$28.5
Education	\$22.5
Transportation & Economic Development	\$9.9
Criminal & Civil Justice	\$5.1
General Government	\$2.2
Natural Resources	\$2.1
Total State	\$70.3 Billion

*In billions.

Steve Crisafulli

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COMMITTEES

- Vice Chair—Natural Resources Appropriations Committee
- Agriculture & Natural Resources Policy Committee
- Economic Development Policy Committee
- General Government Policy Council

Legislative Assistant: Ryan Smith
District Secretary: Helen Franta



Steve Crisafulli

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 32

CAPITOL UPDATE

STEVE CRISAFULLI

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 32

Dear Friends,

We all know the difficult times our nation and our state are currently experiencing. From high unemployment rates to out-of-control federal government budget deficits, it is imperative that we in Florida find solutions to revitalize our economy, fund our state's core missions and live within our means.

These priorities guided the actions of me and my colleagues in the Florida House of Representatives during the 2010 Legislative Session. The Florida Legislature worked tirelessly to promote economic development policies and close a \$3.2 billion deficit in our state budget without raising taxes.

Our region also faces the unique challenge of the retirement of the Space Shuttle later this year and its resulting economic fallout. With that in mind, I sponsored—and the Legislature passed—space legislation designed to diversify and strengthen Florida's aerospace industry. We also committed over \$31 million in economic incentives for space-related ventures.

Despite these difficult economic times, Florida will operate with a balanced budget that maintains our commitment to critical needs, such as education, healthcare, and public safety. Our state will also become more business-friendly and economically competitive which I believe will spur job creation.

I hope you will find this newsletter to be informative. Please do not hesitate to contact my district office at (321) 449-5111 or e-mail me at Steve.Crisafulli@MyFloridaHouse.gov if I may be of assistance to you or your family.

Sincerely,

Steve Crisafulli
State Representative, District 32

Inside This Issue

- Education
- Jobs and the Economy
- Space Issues
- 2010 Census
- Cost Benefit Analysis of Legislation
- The Budget

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Education

This year, the Legislature continued its commitment to an excellent public education system for our children. I am pleased that we increased education funding despite a budget shortfall. Additionally, we passed numerous education reforms to help our students compete and excel in today's global economy.

Currently, too many Florida students are not adequately prepared for college and beyond. To address this problem, we created a more rigorous course schedule



to better prepare our students for success. We also expanded scholarship programs to empower our students and their families with choice in their education.

This November, voters will be asked to right size the Class Size Amendment. While the amendment has helped lessen class sizes, the rigid caps required in the final phase of implementation are presenting difficult problems for school districts. These revisions, if adopted, will maintain the integrity of the amendment while also giving school districts flexibility so they can avoid unintended consequences such as having to move students between teachers mid-year or busing students to schools with available classroom space.

A quality education opens the door to opportunity and prepares a student for success in life. I believe we need to continue education reforms that have been working and help us achieve this goal: high standards, parental involvement, excellent teachers, disciplined classrooms and accountable schools.

Jobs and the Economy

Our top priority in the Legislature this year was recharging Florida's economy and helping put Floridians back to work. We took important steps to incentivize new businesses, stimulate job creation and remove barriers to economic growth in Florida.

On the first day of Session, we passed legislation that holds down automatic increases in the unemployment tax businesses pay. These increases would have resulted in layoffs for Floridians. I certainly felt it would be better for our businesses to keep Floridians working rather than be forced to lay off employees in order to afford a higher tax bill.

We passed a \$203 million jobs package (over three years) designed to make our state more economically competitive and encourage companies to come to our state. We provided tax credits to encourage companies to hire Floridians who are unemployed. We authorized over \$31 million for infrastructure improvements to attract aerospace industry jobs and to help workers in need of retraining to help mitigate the economic impact of the Space Shuttle's retirement. We also funded an incentive package to expand the film and entertainment industry in Florida which creates jobs and benefits other areas of commerce.



Sponsored Legislation

Space Issues

Later this year, the Space Shuttle program will end. Its retirement will have a devastating impact to Central Florida. Our district is home to the Kennedy Space Center and our nation's manned spaceflight program so I made improving this situation my top priority.



First and foremost, the Board of Directors of Space Florida, Florida's space agency, needed to be reorganized to make it operate more effectively. House Bill (HB) 451, which I sponsored and was passed by the Legislature, condensed the size of the Board and diversified its composition. It is my hope the new Board will be able to aggressively attract space, aerospace, and alternative energy ventures to Florida.

HB 969, another bill which I sponsored and the Legislature passed, allows Space Florida greater flexibility to utilize funds already appropriated to the agency for Launch Complex 36 at the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. This bill will free up over \$10 million for Space Florida to use to attract aerospace businesses to the state and make necessary launch infrastructure improvements.

Furthermore, HB 1389, the Space Transition & Revitalization ("STAR") Act, solidifies the importance of

the space industry to the state of Florida by providing that up to 20% of the state's Quick Action Closing Fund can be specifically used for space-related projects. These funds are only allocated to businesses that provide high-paying, high-quality jobs in Florida. I was pleased the Legislature also passed this bill as well.

Finally, the House passed House Memorial (HM) 481 to urge Congress to sufficiently fund NASA and the Kennedy Space Center to help mitigate the economic impacts of the Shuttle's retirement. The Legislature passed Senate Memorial (SM) 1896, which urges Congress to support endeavors to retain our highly skilled manned spaceflight operations workforce here in Florida.

As mentioned previously, the Legislature appropriated over \$31 million for space-related ventures in the state budget. These funds will be utilized to attract and develop space business, retrain workers and make infrastructure improvements.

While there is still more to be done to help mitigate the job losses and economic impact of the Space Shuttle's retirement, I am proud that all of my sponsored space legislation was passed by the Legislature. I believe this demonstrates the state's strong commitment to space. Ultimately, although the federal government controls the fate of the space program, Florida must continue to take steps to strengthen and diversify our state's space industry.

2010 Census

The countdown to July 10, the last day to be counted in the 2010 Census, is underway. Conducted every 10 years, this constitutionally required process helps us understand who we are as a nation and guides critical decisions that are made. Census results also determine congressional representation and guide local decision-makers on where to build new roads, hospitals, childcare and senior citizen centers, schools and more.

With the clock ticking, the Florida House of Representatives is helping to achieve a complete and accurate count through www.myfloridacensus.gov. The website allows Floridians to share information about the census in communities throughout Florida. Every year, the federal government allocates more than \$400 billion to state, local and tribal governments based on census data.

By visiting www.myfloridacensus.gov, you can help make sure everyone in your community is represented in Florida's portrait.

Cost Benefit Analysis of Legislation

Senator Haridopolos and I sponsored a law passed by the Legislature to develop additional tools to better evaluate how certain new laws passed will affect state and local revenues as well as budgetary programs. Under the bill, the financial evaluation committees may be required to provide additional analysis using techniques such as cost-benefit, return-on-investment or dynamic scoring.

The use of these additional analytical tools will provide a more comprehensive view of the effect a proposed law may have. Typically, traditional analyses just look at the financial costs of a legislative proposal, but that is often not accurate because they do not measure the benefits that may result from that proposal. By gaining a fuller understanding of the costs and the benefits of new laws and programs, the Legislature is able to make better choices in relation to the effects of proposed legislation.